

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:830
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2001
DRUG ADDICTION
VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether according to National Master Plan for drug control, the menace of drugs has posed a serious threat to the country;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether in spite of the operation of the NDPS Act, drug addictions is on the increase in the country;
- (d) if so, whether the Government propose to make any amendments to the said Act;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

(a)&(b): In the National Master Plan [Draft] on Drug Abuse Control in India (1994-2000) it has been Suggested that in order to control the drug menace, the main efforts should be concentrated on demand reduction measures amongst the vulnerable population groups and in counter-measures against in-smuggling of drugs alongwith arms and explosives that foster subversive activities and indigenous illicit production of drugs.

(c):Different studies and reports indicate to a rising trend in drug abuse in certain vulnerable sections of the society, such as street children, commercial sex workers, urban slums dwellers, unemployed youth etc.

(d):Yes, Sir. Recently Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Act,2001 has been passed by both the Houses of Parliament.

(e):The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Act, 2001 seeks to (a) rationalize the existing sentence structure so as to ensure that drug traffickers who traffic in significant quantities of drugs are punished with deterrent sentences, the addict and others who commit less serious offences are awarded less serious punishment (b) restrict the application of strict bail provisions to those offenders who indulged in serious offences (c) remove the inadequacies relating to power of entry, search, seizure, forfeiture of illegally acquired property etc. and (d) address certain obligations specially in respect of the concept of controlled delivery arising from the UN Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988 to which India is a party.

(f) : Does not arise.